



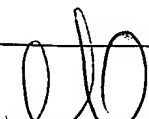
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,190	12/19/2001	James L. Baggot	KCX-277 (12716)	6432
7590 07/27/2004			EXAMINER	
Christina L. Mangelsen Dority & Manning, Attorneys at Law, P.A. P.O. Box 1449 Greenville, SC 29602			HUG, ERIC J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/025,190	BAGGOT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Hug	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 and 31-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-20 and 32-46 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-29, 31 and 47-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 69 and 70 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The following is in response to the amendment filed on May 21, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 21-26, 28, 47, 49, 53-57, 59, 64, and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Britt (US 2,890,540). Britt discloses a paper napkin formed from facial-type tissue and embossed between a hard steel patterned roll 22 and a softer resilient pressure (backing) roll 23. The napkin may be single ply or multi-ply (column 2, line 38). The rolls are run under pressure to impart a design onto the paper from the patterned roll. The pattern roll is also a heated roll (column 2, lines 49-54). The use of the resilient roll avoids cutting and tearing of the paper as compared to when two metal rolls are used. The paper has a basis weight that falls within the claimed basis weight range of conventional tissue (column 2, lines 65-72; claim 1). The temperature (150-400 deg F), pressure, running speed, and moisture content of the web are carefully controlled to provide the desired pattern. The resulting pattern is a consequence of interfiber bonding, whether one or more plies are used (column 6, lines 24-30).

With respect to the claims, a well-defined decorative pattern is formed extending to the center of the paper, such that the pattern clearly falls between 2-60% of the surface area of the web as shown by the figures. The pattern is embossed into the web by means of heat and

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pressure using a rigid pattern roll and a resilient backing roll. Fibers are bonded together at the embossed regions. The embossed sheet has a distinctive appearance characterized by regions of contrasting light reflectance, which is characteristic of the claimed glassine appearance (see column 3, line 22 to column 4, line 16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 27 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Britt (US 2,890,540) in view of Grupe (US 5,209,953). Britt (described above) discloses a paper napkin made of tissue paper which is embossed by pressure and heat between a hard steel patterned roll and a soft resilient backing roll. Britt does not expressly disclose the absorbency of the napkin. Since the paper in Britt is a tissue paper made from a similar type pulp as that of the claimed invention, it would be reasonable to expect that the tissue paper in Britt may be made to have the same absorbency as that of the present invention. One skilled in the art would recognize that the claimed range of 5-9 grams of water per gram of fiber is a conventional value for tissue absorbency, as exemplified by Grupe (see column 2, lines 18-49). Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to make the tissue of Britt to have a water absorbency that is typical of conventional tissue papers.

3. Claims 29 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Britt (US 2,890,540) in view of Cabell et al (US 6,458,447). Britt (described above) does not disclose

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a reticulated pattern, per se, but states that any pattern or figure may be used subject the same manner at which the pattern or figure is formed (column 6, lines 13-16). A reticulated pattern is well known to one skilled in the art of embossing tissue paper, as exemplified by Cabell for providing two-dimensional elasticity when the paper is stretched or deformed in one direction. Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to incorporate a reticulated pattern in the tissue of Britt to allow for stretch along all sheet dimensions and enable the sheet to maintain its shape when deformed.

4. Claims 31, 48, 50-52, 61-63, and 66-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Britt (US 2,890,540) in view of legal precedent.

Regarding claims 31, 50-52, 61, 66-68, Britt does not disclose a range of surface area coverage by the embossed pattern. Although the coverage is obviously significant, it is not readily apparent from the drawings how much coverage is provided. Nevertheless, as the choice of pattern is arbitrary, the surface area is also arbitrary depending on the type of pattern chosen and the degree of bonding that is required when two plies are embossed together. The claims are unpatentable in view of this and in view of the amount of coverage is considered a result effective variable for effecting the bonding of two plies. Therefore, the claims are unpatentable, because one skilled in the art would recognize the surface area coverage of the embossed design as being a result effective variable, see *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980) (the discovery of an optimum value of a known result effective variable without producing any new or unexpected results is within the skill of the routineer in the art).

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Regarding claims 48, 62, and 63, Britt does not specifically disclose a nip pressure, but Britt makes it clear that the nip pressure is an important variable for embossing a pattern having the desired characteristics. Therefore, the claims are unpatentable, because the choice of nip pressure (pli) would be recognized by one skilled in the art as being a result effective variable, see *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980) (the discovery of an optimum value of a known result effective variable without producing any new or unexpected results is within the skill of the routineer in the art).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 69 and 70 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not disclose or suggest an embossed paper product having the claimed decorative pattern defined by bonding areas of 0.02-0.06 inches depth and covering 2-60% of the surface of the paper, the bonding areas formed by heat and pressure in an embossing nip formed by a rigid pattern roll and resilient backing roll.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 21, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not all persuasive.

Note that the rejections given above are repeated from the previous office action.

Britt discloses a napkin having a distinctive damask pattern whereby the surface is covered with shallow grooves. The grooves extend parallel to one another within a first area of the napkin. There are adjacent areas where the grooves extend in a direction transverse to the grooves in the first area, giving the napkin a distinctive pattern. See Figure 2 and reference numeral 26 which denotes the distinctive pattern. It is the distinctive pattern 26, not the entire grooved surface area of the napkin, that appears to cover between the claimed 2 to 60% of the surface area. As stated in column 6, lines 13-16 of Britt, any pattern can be formed that is subject to the forming of adjacent areas as described above, therefore the decorative pattern is clearly not limited to what is shown in Figure 2. Therefore, Britt discloses a decorative pattern comprising 2-60% of the surface area, and discloses or suggests all of the other features as described above.

Applicant's arguments are persuasive regarding the depth of the bonding areas. It is clear that the depth of the grooves in Britt is about an order of magnitude less than the claimed depth of 0.02 to 0.06 inches. Britt teaches away from using deeper grooves as it would weaken or rupture the fibers in the paper. Thus, Britt does not suggest the claimed depth for bonding areas.

It is noted that in Britt the bonding areas correspond to all the grooves in the napkin, not just those in the adjacent areas 26 forming the decorative pattern. It appears that in the present invention that all the bonding areas correspond to the decorative pattern.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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